

wherein said controller permits a user, who is not limited from performing operation via a network by the first management information, to operate the camera and receive a current image acquired by the camera if the second management information indicates that the camera is not being operated by another user, and

said controller prohibits the user to operate the camera, and permits the user to have access to the camera for receiving a current image acquired by the camera if the second management information indicates that the camera is operated via the network by another user.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the operation of the camera includes at least one of panning, tilting or zooming operation of the camera.

25. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first management information includes a range of the operation of the camera for each user.

26. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first management information can be set in a unit of groups including plural users.

27. A control method of controlling a camera based on first management information which indicates limitation of operation of the camera for each user and second information which indicates whether the camera is operated by a user or not, comprising the steps of:

permitting a user, who is not limited from performing operation via a network by the first management information, to operate the camera and receive a current image acquired by the camera if the second management information indicates that the camera is not being operated by another user; and

prohibiting the user to operate the camera, and permitting the user to have access to the camera for receiving a current image acquired by the camera if the second management information indicates that the camera is operated via the network by another user.

28. The method according to claim 27, wherein the operation of the camera includes at least one of panning, tilting or zooming operation of the camera.

29. The method according to claim 27, wherein the first management information includes a range of the operation of the camera for each user.

30. The method according to claim 27, wherein the first management information can be set in a unit of groups including plural users.

31. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium storing a computer program code, for a control method of controlling a camera based on first management information which indicates limitation of operation of the camera for each user and second information which indicates whether the camera is operated by a user or not, comprising process procedure code for:

permitting a user, who is not limited from performing operation via a network by the first management information, to operate the camera and receive a current image acquired by the camera if the second management information indicates that the camera is not being operated by another user; and

prohibiting the user to operate the camera, and permitting the user to have access to the camera for receiving a current image acquired by the camera if the second management information indicates that the camera is operated via the network by another user.

PATENT

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32. The product according to claim 31, wherein the operation of the camera includes at least one of panning, tilting or zooming operation of the camera.

33. The procedure according to claim 31, wherein the first management information includes a range of the operation of the camera for each user.

34. The procedure according to claim 31, wherein the first management information can be set in a unit of groups including plural users.--

Applicant believes no additional fees are required for this Amendment. Should however any such fees be necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4242US3.

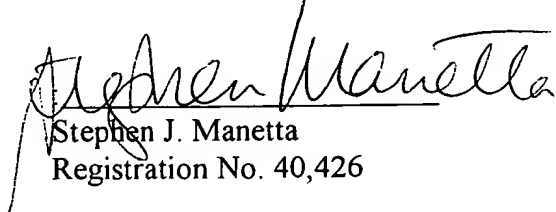
An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. Should a telephone interview facilitate prosecution in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By


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